



BLM News

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR, BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT

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BLM ASKS DRIVERS TO USE EXTRA CARE ON RURAL ROADS

The Bureau of Land Management (BLM) Winnemucca Field Office is asking motorists on rural roads to be especially careful this spring. Civil Engineering Technician Chuck Schlarb says, "Heavy snow and rain has saturated area soil making it soft and more easily subject to erosion. The wet soil combined with continuing heavy runoff from melting snow in the higher elevations has already led to washouts and high water closing several area roads and the possibility of more washouts in the near future."

South of Denio, Nine Mile Road has been closed about 1 ½ miles east of State Highway 140. "Bilk Creek is flowing two-to-three feet deep at the road crossing. The bridge is unsafe and it is impossible to ford the creek," says Schlarb.

The Humboldt River is flowing over Derby Road about 2 miles south of Lovelock, which has closed the road at that point. This is the usual route to reach Lovelock Cave. Currently, the way to reach the cave from I-80 is to leave the Interstate at the East Lovelock Exit, head east on State Highway 856 across the bridge over the Humboldt River, and turn right at the fork in the road past the Trap Shoot on a graveled secondary road. Continue south and southwest along the east side of the Humboldt for about four miles where this road joins the usual route. From there, it's about two more miles to the turn off for Lovelock Cave. But cave visitors should be watchful even on this alternate route, as water in the Humboldt River is continuing to rise and spread in this area.

These are just two of many trouble spots on rural roads in Humboldt and Pershing Counties. BLM urges drivers to be very careful to remain on dry road surfaces and to use special care when approaching low spots and water crossings. "You shouldn't assume that a crossing that was okay last week is still okay today," warns Schlarb. "Approach these areas with extreme caution and look before you leap."

Recent reports on road conditions in the Black Rock Desert-High Rock Canyon Emigrant Trails National Conservation Area as reported by travelers including BLM staff is available on-line at <http://www.blackrockhighrockinfo.net/conditions.asp>.

Conditions for BLM roads throughout the Winnemucca BLM District are available by calling the Bureau of Land Management at (775) 623-1500.